

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 SS-15
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C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 3109

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, CIEC, EGEN, BL

SUBJ: GOB VIEWS ON CIEC

REF: A. STATE 90658, B. STATE 90659

1. WE MADE PRESENTATION REQUESTED REFTELS TO GOB SUB-SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS JAVIER MURILLO IN FOREIGN MINISTRY ON APRIL 26.

2. MURILLO ABSORBED THE POINTS CONTAINED IN REFTELS AND EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE GENERAL DIRECTON OF US ASPIRATIONS FOR THE UPCOMING CIEC MEETING. HE ASKED HOW THE USG EXPECTED TO PROCEED WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED AT CIEC. WE REPLIED THAT IT WAS OUR IMPRESSION THAT THE SPECIFICS WOULD BE TAKEN UP IN VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AND INSTITUTION: I.E., THE RESULTS OF DISCUSSIONS ON THE ROLE OF THE IBRD IN RESOURCE TRANSFERS, NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, AND PROBLEMS OF ENERGY WOULD BE DISCUSSED IN SPECIFICS AT THE IBRD ANNUAL BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING, AND IN THE CONTEXT OF THE IBRD'S DAY TO DAY ACTIVITIES, TRADE SPECIFICS WOULD BE TREATY AT THE GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS, ETC. MURILLO NOTED THE IMPORTANT FUTURE ROLE WHICH THE USG WOULD BE PROPOSING AT CIEC FOR THE IBRD AND HE RAISED THE
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CONCERN OF THE GOB ABOUT THE POSSIBLE INTRUSION BY THE USG OF POLITICAL CRITERIA INTO IBRD DECISIONS. IF THE IBRD WERE TO TAKE A KEY ROLE IN RESOURCE TRANSFERS, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, AS SUGGESTED IN REFTEL, IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS AND OBJECTIONABLE FOR THE USG TO INJECT ITS OWN POLITICAL PHILOSOPHIES ON SUCH HARD TO DEFINE SUBJECTS AS HUMAN RIGHTS INTO THE IBRD'S LENDING ACTIVITIES. HE SAID COUNTRIES COULD BE FALSELY CATEGORIZED ON THE

BASIS OF INACCURATE OR MISLEADING INFORMATION, OR LUMPED TOGETHER BECAUSE OF GEOGRAPHIC PROXIMITY OR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT. HE ADDED THAT THIS WOULD MAKE IT DESIRABLE FOR THE USG TO AVOID IMPOSING SUCH CRITERIA (I.E., A HARKINS TYPE AMENDMENT) ON US CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE IBRD, BUT IF THIS WERE TO OCCUR, IT WOULD RAISE QUESTIONS IN THE MINDS OF MANY LDCS ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY OF MAKING THE IBRD A FACAL POINT FOR DEALING WITH MANY CRITICAL ECONOMIC QUESTIONS. MOREOVER, HE SAID, COOPERATION IS AN ACROSS THE BOARD, TWO-WAY AFFAIR, AND NATIONS COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO COOPERATE ON SUCH MATTERS AS NARCOTICS CONTROL OR IN MULTILATERAL FORA WHILE AT THE SAME TIME SUBJECTING EACH OTHER TO THEIR OWN POLITICAL CRITERIA WHEN IT CAME TO COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT.

3. MURILLO ALSO REFERRED TO THE IMPORTANCE OF REDUCING NON-TARIFF BARRIERS AT THE MTN SINCE THESE MAY HAVE MUCH MORE TO DO WITH INCREASING LDC MARKET SHARES THAN FURTHER REDUCTIONS IN TARIFFS, AND HE URGED THAT THIS POINT BE SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSED AT CIEC. HE SAID THAT BOLIVIA DID NOT INTEND TO NEGOTIATE AS PART OF ANY BLOCK AT THE MTN, BUT WOULD PURSUE ITS OWN SPECIFIC INTERESTS.

4. MURILLO PICKED UP ON FACT THAT TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER WAS NOT SPECIFICALLY COVERED UNDER THE ITMES IN PARA 4 OF REFTEL A AND HE SUGGESTED THAT THE OAS ADOPT A PROGRAM TO HELP LATIN AMERICAN MEMBERS WITH THIS QUESTION, AND WITH DECIDING ON WHAT SPECIFIC TECHNOLOGIES COULD APPROPRIATELY BE USED BY LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES. HE SAID SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD MENTIONED USG WILLINGNESS TO PROMOTE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY IN COOPERATION WITH THE OAS AT THE 1976 GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING IN SANTIAGO, BUT MURILLO WAS NOT AWARE THAT ANYTHING HAD EVER BEEN DONE TO FOLLOW UP THIS INIT-
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IATIVE. PICKING UP FROM THIS, MURILLO SAID HE BELIEVED THAT THE OAS STILL HAD AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN HEMISPHERIC RELATIONS, AND WHILE HE APPRECIATED THE GLOBAL CONTEXT OF MANY ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND OF USG CONCERNS, HE STILL THOUGHT THE OAS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO WITHER AWAY.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT: MURILLO IS THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S MOST EXPERIENCED OFFICIAL AND IN FACT HE RUNS MOST OF THE MINISTRY'S DAILY ACTIVITIES AND REPORTEDLY STRONGLY INFLUENCES GOB FOREIGN POLICY POSITIONS. HE DOES NOT MAKE OFF THE CUFF COMMENTS AND WE THINK HIS VIEWS ACCURATELY REFLECT SOME GOB CONCERNS, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO APPLICATION OF A HARKINS TYPE AMENDMENT TO THE IBRD.
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